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ABSTRACT

In 1971 a special research program was begun with the research and development activities in Swedish higher education. The aim is to increase the knowledge concerning problems expected to be important in present and future university and college organization. A fundamental requirement is that research projects must be established on a sound theoretical footing, be closely geared to international research in the sector, and focus on problems of essential importance to the higher education sector as a whole. Three problem areas comprise the research program: (1) the role of higher education in society; (2) higher education as a system, with focus on structure and governance; and (3) the internal work of higher education, including the environment and working methods of research and teaching. The scope and direction of the program are reported and specific research projects are itemized. (Author/LBH)

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INFORMATION ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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THE UHÄ PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

PURPOSE AND WORKING METHODS

In 1971 a special research programme was started within the research and development (R&D) activities in Swedish higher education. The aim of this programme is to increase the knowledge concerning problems, which can be expected to be important not only in the present but also in the future university and college organization. The UHÄ believes that a research programme of this kind, which enables qualified researchers, in consultation with planners, to work continuously for relatively long periods on defining theoretically deduced priorities, constitutes an important supplement to the other more action-oriented research and development activities. One fundamental requirement is, of course, that the research projects must be established on a sound theoretical footing, they must be closely geared to international research in the sector and they must focus on problems of essential importance to the higher education sector as a whole.

The research programme is divided into the following three problem areas:

1) the role of higher education in society

2) higher education as a system: structure and governance

3) the internal work of higher education: the environment and working methods of research and teaching

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Within each problem area, continuous work is in progress on knowledge and problem surveys, research projects in the form of empirical studies, problem area meetings and research information. Experienced researchers are engaged to make "state of the art"-analyses and to suggest research tasks. The reviews which are thus prepared constitute starting points for problem area meetings, i.e. conferences and symposia, which give researchers, teachers, students and planners an opportunity of together carrying out in-depth analyses of problems and narrowing down proposals concerning priorities for future R&D within the areas concerned. The work procedure which has thus been evolved is a combined planning and retrieval process whose purpose is to contribute towards the continuous development and the continuous utilization of an increasingly reliable fund of knowledge concerning the main problems in the higher education sector.

The research programme is planned and administered - within the frames defined for R&D generally - in consultation with two advisory groups, comprising researchers and planners respectively. Part of the job of these groups is to initiate and follow up the implementation of projects and to contribute towards the development of institutional resources and resources of personnel for this research. For each of the three problem areas, which the research programme comprises, there now exist a number of knowledge surveys, either in the form of separate reports (including documentation for problem area meetings) or else, for example, forming part of the doctoral theses (so far upwards of ten in number) and other major compilations which constitute project reports. During the past few years about a dozen problem area meetings have been held and have for the most part been attended by about fifty delegates each.

SCOPE AND DIRECTION

The two tables which now follow provide a brief description of the development of the research programme in terms of content and volume. As the figures show, the nominal scope of the programme has remained more or less constant in the past few years.

Table 1. Research into higher education. Distribution of projects between problem areas in 1973/74, 1975/76 and 1977/78

Problem area	1973/74		1975/76		1977/78	
	No. proj.	Skr 1000	No. proj.	Skr 1000	No. proj.	Skr 1000
The role of higher education in society	7	440	6	690	5	675
Higher education as a system: structure and governance	1	120	6	376	4	435
The internal work of higher education: the environment and working methods of research and of a)	1	25	2	124	3	355
teaching b)	10	871	7	475	2	110
	19	1456	21	1665	14	1575
Planning of research, conferences, knowledge surveys etc.		149		245		225
Total		1650		1900		1800
Percentage of entire R&D budget	17		15		9	

In terms of content, the emphasis of research has shifted from pedagogics to questions concerning the structure and governace of higher education and questions concerning the role of higher education in society. In recent years, moreover, questions concerning research and research training and its conditions have begun to be investigated side by side with questions concerning teaching activities.

These tendencies can be expected to continue during 1978/79 and the years immediately following. The shift of emphasis undergone by the content of R&D is also reflected by the distribution of the allocations between the university departments included in the programme; see table 2.

Table 2. Research into higher education. Distribution of projects between university subjects in 1973/74, 1975/76 and 1977/78

Subject	1973/74			1975/76			1977/78		
	No. proj.	Skr 1000	%	No. Proj.	Skr 1000	%	No. proj.	Skr 1000	%
Econ. hist.				1	75	4	1	150	10
Philosophy							1	80	5
Business econ.	1	120	8	2	70	4	1	50	3
Geography				1	95	6			
History				1	100	6	1	250	16
Economics	1	15	1	2	240	14			
Pedagogics	11	896	62	7	520	32	3	280	18
Psychology	3	224	15	2	285	17	2	120	7
Sociology	3	201	14	2	64	4	1	180	12
Pol. science				3	216	13	3	385	24
Theory of science							1	80	5
Total	19	1456	100	21	1665	100	14	1575	100

This wider commitment throughout the field of the social sciences and also within humanities subjects such as philosophy, history and theory of science represents a diversification of research into the basic problems of higher education.

SURVEY BY PROBLEM AREAS

The following is an account, with reference to problem areas, of research projects, knowledge and problem surveys etc. which are now in progress or have been completed. Concerning current projects, reference is also made to project descriptions etc. in the UHÄ series R&D for higher education and to previously published information bulletins.

Apart from the problem areas enumerated previously, mention is also made here of a fourth, namely R&D organization. Within this problem area, work is now in progress on the planning of research measures, and so far only a number of analytic reviews have been carried out,

PROBLEM AREA 1: THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOCIETY

a) Knowledge and problem surveys, conference reports

Higher education and the labour market - structure and relations, UKÄ, 1972, stencil (in Swedish)

Evaluation: control of functions and results, UKÄ, 1972, stencil (in Swedish)

Information systems, data bases, follow-up studies, National Board of Education and UKÄ, 1973, stencil (in Swedish)

Problems of method in studies of the relationship between higher education and the labour market, UKÄ-report, 1975:1 (in Swedish)

Earning and Learning (B-Ch Ysander, M J Bowman, Å Sohlman), UHÄ-report 1977:x

b) Examples of reports from concluded research projects

Jerkedal, Å: The interconnection of basic education, job experience and further education in certain careers. Background and purposes. Institute of Education, University of Gothenburg, 1973 (in Swedish) (Project: same title as report; scientific leader, Ass. Prof. Åke Jerkedal)

Idman, P: Equality and Democracy as Educational Goals, School of Education, Malmö, No 160, 1974 (Project: Goal-analytic studies of cross-disciplinary goals; scientific leader Prof. Åke Bjerstedt)

Berner, B: Women in technology and science. Department of Sociology, University of Lund, 1975 (in Swedish) (Project: Technical work and engineering studies; scientific leader Ass. Prof. Bengt Gesser)

Franke-Wikberg, S and Johansson, M: Evaluation of university teaching. Department of Educational Research, Umeå University, 1975 (in Swedish) (Project: Evaluation of university teaching; scientific leader Prof. Sten Henrysson)

Abrahamsson, K: The need for a dialogue. On the counselling needs of presumptive adult learners in higher education. Department of Education, Stockholm university, 1976. (Project: Studies of internal and external communication concerning higher education; scientific leader Prof. Åke Edfeldt)

Bayramoglu, I: Graduates and industry. Department of Sociology, University of Gothenburg, No 41, 1976 (in Swedish) (Project: Images of higher education in commerce and industry; scientific leader Ass. Prof. Per Sjöstrand)

Johansson, L and Ekerwald, H: Adult studies and the individual situation. Bokförlaget Prisma, Stockholm, 1976 (in Swedish) (Project: Social analysis of post-secondary and other adult education; scientific leader Ass. Prof. Bengt Abrahamsson)

Elgvist-Saltzman, I: The way through university. Uppsala Studies in Education, No. 1, 1977 (in Swedish). (Project: Analyses of education and students, and project: Ways into, through and out of an educational system; scientific leaders Prof. Urban Dahllöf and Prof. Sten Henrysson)

c) Other research projects from which final reports are expected during 1977/78

Post-secondary education and background. Department of International Education, University of Stockholm. Scientific leader Prof. Torsten Husén. (Inf. bulletin 1973:11)

Aspects of education and the division of labour. Department of Sociology, University of Lund; Scientific leader Ass. Prof. Bengt Gesser (1974:3)

Education and the labour market. The Departments of Economics in the Universities of Gothenburg and Stockholm. Scientific leaders Prof. Harald Dickson and Ass. Prof. Bengt-Christer Ysander (1975:6)

The equalizing effects of the educational reforms; a comparative study of two generations. Department of International Education, University of Stockholm. Scientific leader Ass. Prof. Ingemar Fägerlind (1975:3)

d) Current research projects

The role of higher education in the development of the individual. Department of Psychology, University of Stockholm; scientific leader: Prof. David Magnusson (1977:9)

The expansion of the education sector in Sweden during the 20th centry. Department of Economic History, University of Lund. Scientific leader: Prof. Lennart Jörberg (1976:5)

Practitioners and social scientists; the utilization of social science in planning. Department of Sociology, University of Gothenburg. Scientific leader Prof. Edmund Dahlström (1977:x)

Higher studies and perception of the world at large. A study of educational effects. Institute of Education, University of Gothenburg. Scientific leader Ass. Prof. Ference Marton (1977:x)

Long-term effects of higher education. Department of Educational Research, University of Umeå. Scientific leader Prof. Sten Henrysson (1977:x)

PROBLEM AREA 2: HIGHER EDUCATION AS A SYSTEM: STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

a) Surveys of knowledge and problems, conference reports

Evaluation of a reform of higher education, UKÄ-report 1973:2 (in Swedish)

Research into the organization of higher education. UHÄ-report 1977:x (in Swedish)

Problems of management and decision making in the new organization of higher education (Dick Ramström), UHÄ-report 1977:x (in Swedish)

b) Examples of reports from concluded research projects

Cigéhn, G: Changes in party political sympathies and educational choices during the progress of studies. The importance of social background and the university environment. Department of Sociology, Umeå University, 1975, No 28 (in Swedish). (Project: University environment, study efficiency and political activity. Scientific leader Prof. Georg Karlsson)

Axelsson, R and Rosenberg, L: Applications of Organization Theory. On problems of the Swedish System of Higher Education. Department of Business Administration, Umeå University, 1976. (Project: The adjustment of university organization to an integrated education system. Scientific leader Prof. Dick Ramström)

c) Other research projects from which final reports are expected during 1977/78

Alternative educational structures in the northern educational region. Department of Geography, University of Umeå. Scientific leader: Ass. Prof. Nils Häggström (1976:5)

Production and productivity at Swedish universities. Department of Economics, University of Lund. Scientific leader Prof. Ingemar Ståhl (1974:3)

d) Current research projects

The university as an organization: system and environment. Department of Political Science, University of Umeå. Scientific leader Ass. Prof. Jan-Erik Lane (1976:7)

Obstacles to innovation within the university organization. Department of Business Economics, University of Gothenburg. Scientific leader Ass. Prof. Anders Edström (1977:2)

U 68 - a study of the origins of the reform of higher education. Department of Political Science, University of Stockholm. Scientific leader Prof. Olof Ruin (1977:5)

U 68 - a study of the implementation of the reform of higher education. Department of Political Science, University of Stockholm. Scientific leader Prof. Olof Ruin (1977:6)

PROBLEM AREA 3A: THE ENVIRONMENT AND WORKING METHODS OF RESEARCH

a) Surveys of knowledge and problems, conference reports

Workforms in research training
UKÄ-report 1973:1 (in Swedish)

The universities and research. A study of the conditions of research and research training (Torsten Husén), Bokförlaget Natur och Kultur, 1975 (in Swedish)

The research nexus. The link between research and undergraduate teaching (Bengt Abrahamsson), UHÄ-report 1977:10 (in Swedish)

b) Examples of reports from concluded research projects

Dahlström, E: Social scientists and practitioners. Thoughts and working material concerning the development of the social sciences. Department of Sociology, University of Gothenburg, No. 38, 1976, (in Swedish). (Project: same title as report. Scientific leader Prof. Edmund Dahlström)

c and d) Other research projects from which final reports are expected during 1977/78, together with current research projects

The results of research training 1890-1975. Department of History, University of Lund. Scientific leader Prof. Birgitta Odén (1976:2)

Research roles and the organization of interdisciplinary groups. Department of Theory of Science, University of Gothenburg. Scientific leaders: Jan Bärmark Ph.D. and Göran Wallén Ph.D.

Style of problem solving, research focus and research ability. Department of Psychology, University of Lund. Scientific leader Ass. Prof. Robert Goldsmith

PROBLEM AREA 3B: THE ENVIRONMENT AND WORKING METHODS OF TEACHING

a) Surveys of knowledge and problems, conference reports

The organization and working methods of teaching. Institute of Education, University of Gothenburg, No. 83, 1972 (in Swedish)

Problems of method connected with university studies by working groups. UKÄ-report 1975:16 (in Swedish)

Research into recurrent education.
UKÄ-report 1975:8

Higher education - functions and innovations: a survey of the relevant literature. Institute of Education, University of Gothenburg, No. 131, 1975 (in Swedish)

Concept formation and learning within four university subjects, UHÄ-report 1977:3 (in Swedish)

b) Examples of reports from concluded research projects

Dahlgren, L O: Qualitative differences in learning as a function of content-oriented guidance. Göteborg Studies in Education, No. 15, 1975

Säljö, R: Qualitative differences in learning as a function of the learner's conception of the task. Göteborg Studies in Education, No. 14, 1975

Svensson, L: Study skill and learning. Göteborg Studies in Education, No.19, 1976 (the three reports from the project Study skills and learning. Scientific leader Ass. Prof. Ference Marton)

Fransson, A and Rovio-Johansson, A: University studies in working groups. Report from experimental activities involving new teaching methods. Parts 1 and 2. Institute of Education, University of Gothenburg, Nos. 95 and 101, 1973 (in Swedish). (Project: same title, scientific leader Ass. Prof. Ference Marton)

c) Other research projects from which final reports are expected during 1977/78

The educational content of a university subject. Department of Sociology, University of Uppsala. Scientific leader Prof. Ulf Himmelstrand (1977:x)

Client-related guidance. Institute of Education, University of Lund. Scientific leader Professor Ingvar Johannesson (1973:x)

The pedagogics of problem solving. Department of Psychology, University of Gothenburg. Scientific leader Prof. Lennart Sjöberg (1973:13)

Subject-pedagogical studies of basic economic concepts. Institute of Education, University of Gothenburg. Scientific leader Ass. Prof. Ference Marton (1975:1)

Studies concerning the value of various teaching methods in higher education. Institute of Education University of Lund Scientific leader Ass. Prof. Daniel Kallós (1973:9)

d) Current research projects

The role of mathematics in higher technical studies. Institute of Education, University of Uppsala. Scientific leader Prof. Karl-Georg Ahlström (1975:9)

Critical training in higher education. Department of Philosophy, University of Lund. Scientific leader Prof. Sören Halldén (1977:3)

PROBLEM AREA 4: R&D ORGANIZATION

a) Surveys of knowledge and problems, conference reports etc

Some R&D tasks in the higher education sector (B-Ch Ysander, Å Sohlman), UKÄ, 1973, stencil. (In Swedish)

List of problems for research into higher education. UKÄ information bulletin Educational Development 1973:1

Strategies for research and development in higher education. Educational Research Symposium in Göteborg, September 1975, Swets & Zeitlinger, Amsterdam, 1976

Problem definition and research initiation in the education sector. Report from a conference arranged by the Tercentary Fund of the Bank of Sweden, the Social Science Research Council, the National Board of Education and the National Board of universities and colleges, October 1976 (in Swedish)

The creation and support of a research community on higher education : A report to the University Chancellor's Office (Martin Trow), R&D for Higher Education, 1977:3

Abstract of discussions in the UKÄ/UHÄ advisory groups on research into higher education 1973-1977. UHÄ, stencil (in Swedish)

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